

## PENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PD980069	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/EP 99/07978	International filing date (day/month/year) 21/10/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 02/11/1998
Applicant  DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
  - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
  - contained in the international application in written form.
  - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
  - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
  - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
  - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
  - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2.  Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3.  Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

SYSTEM FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HOME NETWORK SYSTEM DATA

5. With regard to the abstract,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1

None of the figures.

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 United States Patent and Trademark  
 Office  
 Box PCT  
 Washington, D.C. 20231  
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 13 June 2000 (13.06.00)
International application No. PCT/EP99/07978
International filing date (day/month/year) 21 October 1999 (21.10.99)
Applicant SCHRÖDER, Ernst, F.

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
PD980069

Priority date (day/month/year)  
02 November 1998 (02.11.98)

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:  
04 May 2000 (04.05.00)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election  was  
 was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

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The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer S. Mafla
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38



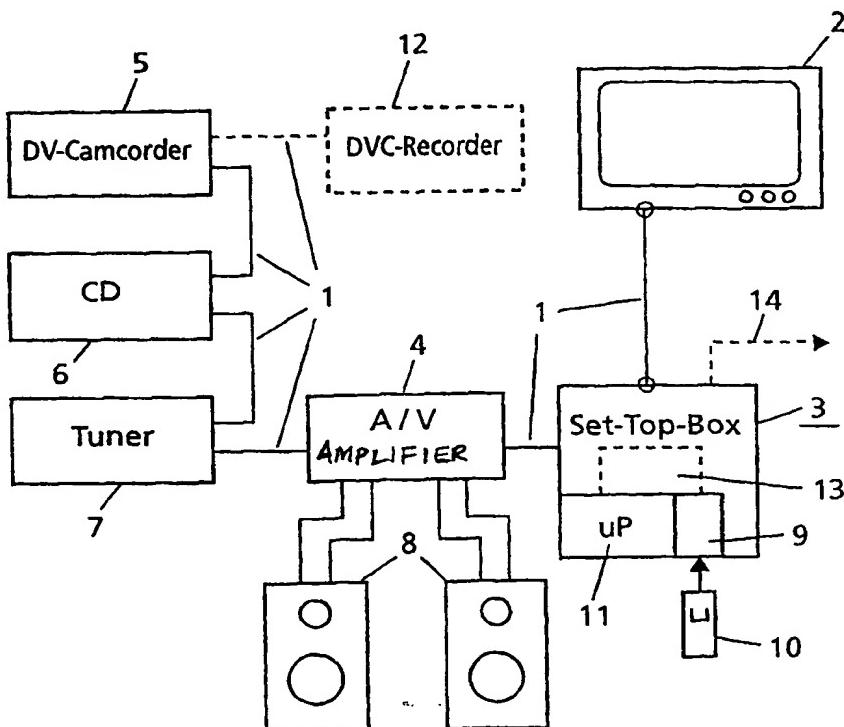
## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> : <b>H04N 7/24</b>	A1	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 00/27127</b> (43) International Publication Date: 11 May 2000 (11.05.00)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/07978</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 21 October 1999 (21.10.99)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 198 50 574.4 2 November 1998 (02.11.98) DE</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH [DE/DE]; Hermann-Schwer-Strasse 3, D-78048 Villingen-Schwenningen (DE).</p> <p>(72) Inventor; and</p> <p>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SCHRÖDER, Ernst, F. [DE/DE]; Pinkenburger Strasse 25D, D-30655 Hannover (DE).</p> <p>(74) Agent: SCHÄFERJOHANN, Volker; Deutsche Thomson-Brandt GmbH, European Patent Operations, Karl-Wiechert-Allee 74, D-30625 Hannover (DE).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SD, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p><b>Published</b> With international search report.</p>

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR STORING AND TRANSMITTING HOME NETWORK SYSTEM DATA

## (57) Abstract

The invention specifies a system having a plurality of devices (2-7) which are connected to one another via an IEEE 1394 interface and one (3) of which contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for devices (2,4-7) in this system via the interface (1) and passes this system data to an output unit (9, 13, 14) of this device (3). The device having the output unit is, by way of example, a set-top box (3) having a microprocessor which a user uses to poll system data for the devices (2, 4-7), which contains, in particular the input and output characteristics of the latter, via the interface (1) and which the user can use to store this system data on a smart card (10) by means of a write/read device (9). Alternatively or at the same time, the system data can be shown on a display (13) or transmitted to a desired address via a modem connection (14). As a result, the user of the system can receive expert advice from a specialist dealer or a customer service point regarding which devices (12) he can best add to his system; or if a point of failure or faults arise.



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EE	Estonia						

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. Appl. No  
PCT/EP 99/07978

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 H04N7/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 H04N H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, A	EP 0 932 275 A (SONY ELECTRONICS INC) 28 July 1999 (1999-07-28) abstract ---	1-15
A	CHEN W Y: "Emerging home digital networking needs" 1997 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROCEEDINGS (CAT. NO.97TH8337), 1997 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROCESSING, ATLANTA, GA, USA, 11-12 SEPT. 1997, pages 7-12, XP002130483 1997, New York, NY, USA, IEEE, USA ISBN: 0-7803-4290-9 paragraph '03.2! paragraph '03.3! --- -/-	1-15

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

14 February 2000

25/02/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Berbain, F

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/EP 99/07978

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>"AUDIO UND VIDEO IM HEIM-NETZWERK"          FUNKSCHAU, DE, FRANZIS-VERLAG K.G. MUNCHEN,          vol. 63, no. 6, 8 March 1991 (1991-03-08),          pages 74, 76, 78-79, XP000222653          ISSN: 0016-2841          abstract</p> <p>---</p>	1-15
A	<p>DE 195 30 596 A (INSTA ELEKTRO GMBH &amp; CO KG) 27 February 1997 (1997-02-27)          abstract</p> <p>column 1, line 21 - line 25          column 2, line 67 - column 3, line 3          column 3, line 23 - line 28</p> <p>-----</p>	1-15

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inte:      onal Application No

PCT/EP 99/07978

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0932275 A	28-07-1999	JP 11275117 A	08-10-1999
DE 19530596 A	27-02-1997	NONE	

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

SCHÄFERJOHANN, Volker  
DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH  
European Patent Operations  
Karl-Wiechert-Allee 74  
D-30625 Hannover  
ALLEMAGNE

3111

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	09.01.2001
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Applicant's or agent's file reference

PD980069

**IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**International application No.  
PCT/EP99/07978International filing date (day/month/year)  
21/10/1999Priority date (day/month/year)  
02/11/1998

Applicant

DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

**4. REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

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Authorized officer

SCHALINATUS, D

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## PENT COOPERATION TREA

## PCT

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**  
**(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)**

Applicant's or agent's file reference PD980069	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP99/07978	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 21/10/1999	Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 02/11/1998	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N7/24			
<p>Applicant DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH et al.</p>			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</li> <li>II   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III   <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li>IV   <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li> <li>V   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li>VI   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li> <li>VII   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li> <li>VIII   <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>			

Date of submission of the demand 04/05/2000	Date of completion of this report 09.01.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer  Berst, C  Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8028



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP99/07978

**I. Basis of the report**

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).;*)

**Description, pages:**

1-6                   as originally filed

**Claims, No.:**

1-7                   as received on                   20/12/2000   with letter of                   18/12/2000

**Drawings, sheets:**

1/1                   as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description,                   pages:
- the claims,                   Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP99/07978

- the drawings, sheets:
5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):  
*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*
6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**II. Priority**

1.  This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the failure to furnish within the prescribed time limit the requested:
- copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
- translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
2.  This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid.

Thus for the purposes of this report, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:  
**see separate sheet**

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims 2,3
	No:	Claims 1,4-7
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1-7
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-7
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations  
**see separate sheet**

**VI. Certain documents cited**

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/EP99/07978

and / or

**2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)**

**see separate sheet**

**VII. Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP99/07978

**II). Priority:**

The priority document DE - A - 198 50 574 claimed for the present demand and published 2.11.1998 has been checked. The priority is valid.

**V). Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) PCT:**

- 1). The following documents mentioned in the international search report are referred to in this report:

(D1) : CHEN W Y: "Emerging home digital networking needs" 1997 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROCEEDINGS (CAT. NO.97TH8337), 1997 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROCESSING, ATLANTA, GA, USA, 11-12 SEPT. 1997, pages 7-12, XP002130483 1997, New York, NY, USA, IEEE, USA ISBN: 0-7803-4290-9

(D2) : DE - A - 195 30 596

- 2). D1, in particular page 11, right-hand column, lines 7-10, 13 - 18 & 26 - 31 and page 12, left-hand column, lines 1 - 11 and figure 5 thereof, discloses:

a system having a plurality of devices (gateways each including a NIU, digital camcorder, DVD, PC, set-top box/TV) connected to one another via a bus interface, in particular an IEEE 1394 bus interface (residential digital network), wherein one of the devices (PC) contains a control unit (PC terminal), which, when operated appropriately by a user ("when a user activates the information appliance PC"), polls (by "sending a probe signal to all gateways") system data (limited information about backbone access network of the different gateways) for other devices (gateways) in this system via the interface (residential digital network), wherein said system data comprises characteristic data (information about backbone access network) for a device (gateway),

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP99/07978

e.g. {a serial number, the manufacturer's mark, the device class,} output and/or input characteristics (in the present case: backbone access network information),  
{the software version and/or any error data,}  
and passes this system data to an output unit (PC display, disc storage or printer in format of an icon) of this one device (PC), characterised in that, the output unit (disc storage) is {either} a device (disc storage) for writing to a mobile, digital data medium (disc) which can store the system data  
{or that the output unit (in the PC) is a modem or another telecommunication connection (connection with the residential network) which, when operated appropriately by a user, can send the system data to a desired address (in the network).}

The subject-matter of independent claim 1 can thus be entirely read onto D1. For this reason, the subject-matter of claim 1 lacks novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).

It is to be noted that the features placed between {} are alternative features in claim 1, and do therefore not add anything new to the subject-matter of this claim. However, it is further to be noted that, although they are not all explicitly described in D1, they can all be considered as implicit or at least suggested in this document.

- 3). The additional features of dependent apparatus claims 4 (minicomputer with a floppy disc: PC in D1), 5 (device in the system comprising a writing device storing the system data on a mobile digital data medium: disc storage of the PC in D1), 6 (device in the system comprising a telecommunication connection which can send polled data to an address: connection with the residential network in D1) and 7 (remote polling code transmitted via telecommunication line: connection line of the residential network in D1) are also known from D1.  
The subject-matter of dependent claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 taken in combination with claim 1 can thus be entirely read onto D1.

For these reasons, the subject-matter of said dependent claims also lacks novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/EP99/07978

- 4). The additional features of dependent apparatus claims 2 (smart/chip card as data medium) and 3 (set/top box or sat receiver with chip/smart card read/write device) are generally known in the field of home networks, in particular from D1 (see figure 5: set top box) and D2 (use of chip cards). A skilled person would automatically use such features whenever necessary and therefore these features can not be considered as involving an inventive step.

For this reason, the subject-matter of dependent claims 2 and 3 does not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) .

**VI). A certain document cited:**

The document EP - A - 0 932 275 cited in the international search report was published on 28.07.1999, after the priority date of the present demand, namely 2.11.1998, the priority of which is valid. This document can not be taken into consideration for establishing an international preliminary report.

This document would however be particularly relevant when entering a regional phase.

**VII). A certain defect:**

In order to meet the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the documents D1 & D2 should be identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed.

-1-

## Patent Claims

1. System having a plurality of devices connected to one another via a bus interface, in particular an IEEE 1394 bus interface, wherein one of the devices (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for other devices (2,4-7) in this system via the interface (1), wherein said system data comprises characteristic data for a device (2, 4-7), e.g. a serial number, the manufacturer's mark, the device class, output and/or input characteristics, the software version and/or any error data and passes this system data to an output unit (9, 13, 14) of this one device (3), characterized in that, the output unit (9, 13, 14) is either a device (9) for writing to a mobile, digital data medium (10) which can store the system data or that the output unit (9, 13, 14) is a modem or another telecommunication connection (14) which, when operated appropriately by a user, can send the system data to a desired address.
2. System according to Claim 1, characterized in that the mobile data medium (10) is a smart card or a chip card having a memory, and in that, when operated appropriately by a user, the control unit (11) in this one device (3) stores system data for the connected other devices (2,4-7) on the smart card or the chip card (10) using the device (9).
3. System according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that this one device (3) having the device (9) for writing to the data medium (10) is a set-top box or a digital satellite receiver having a write/read device for a chip card or a smart card.
4. System according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that this one device (3) having the device (9) for writing to the data medium (10) is a minicomputer having a drive for a floppy disk or another data medium having a magnetic or optical storage medium.
5. Device for a system according to one of the Claims 1 - 4, wherein this one device (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for the connected other devices (2,4-7) via an interface (1), characterized in that this one device includes a device (9) for writing to a mobile, digital data medium and wherein the device stores this system data on the data medium (10) using the device (9).

-2-

6. Device for a system according to one of the Claims 1 - 4, wherein this one device (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, or when an appropriate remote polling code is received, polls system data for the connected other devices (2, 4-7) via an interface (1), characterized in that this one device (3) includes a modem or another telecommunication connection (14) which can send the polled system data to a desired address.
- 10 7. Device according to Claim 6, characterized in that user operation corresponds to remote control in the context of a remote polling code transmitted via communication line or by radio.

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## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 11 JAN 2001

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**PCT****INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

## (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PD980069	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP99/07978	International filing date (day/month/year) 21/10/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 02/11/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N7/24		
<p><b>Applicant</b>  <b>DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH et al.</b></p>		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</li> <li>II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li> <li>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li>VI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li> <li>VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li> <li>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>		

Date of submission of the demand 04/05/2000	Date of completion of this report 09.01.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Berst, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8028



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International application No. PCT/EP99/07978

**I. Basis of the report**

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17.)*):

**Description, pages:**

1-6                   as originally filed

**Claims, No.:**

1-7                   as received on                   20/12/2000   with letter of                   18/12/2000

**Drawings, sheets:**

1/1                   as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description,           pages:
- the claims,               Nos.:

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- the drawings,      sheets:
5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)): *(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*
6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**II. Priority**

1.  This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the failure to furnish within the prescribed time limit the requested:
- copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
- translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
2.  This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid.

Thus for the purposes of this report, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:  
**see separate sheet**

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims 2,3
	No:	Claims 1,4-7
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1-7

Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-7
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations  
**see separate sheet**

**VI. Certain documents cited**

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

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and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

**see separate sheet**

**VII. Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

**see separate sheet**

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**II). Priority:**

The priority document DE - A - 198 50 574 claimed for the present demand and published 2.11.1998 has been checked. The priority is valid.

**V). Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) PCT:**

- 1). The following documents mentioned in the international search report are referred to in this report:

(D1) : CHEN W Y: "Emerging home digital networking needs" 1997 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROCEEDINGS (CAT. NO.97TH8337), 1997 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROCESSING, ATLANTA, GA, USA, 11-12 SEPT. 1997, pages 7-12, XP002130483 1997, New York, NY, USA, IEEE, USA ISBN: 0-7803-4290-9

(D2) : DE - A - 195 30 596

- 2). D1, in particular page 11, right-hand column, lines 7-10, 13 - 18 & 26 - 31 and page 12, left-hand column, lines 1 - 11 and figure 5 thereof, discloses:

a system having a plurality of devices (gateways each including a NIU, digital camcorder, DVD, PC, set-top box/TV) connected to one another via a bus interface, in particular an IEEE 1394 bus interface (residential digital network), wherein one of the devices (PC) contains a control unit (PC terminal), which, when operated appropriately by a user ("when a user activates the information appliance PC"), polls (by "sending a probe signal to all gateways") system data (limited information about backbone access network of the different gateways) for other devices (gateways) in this system via the interface (residential digital network), wherein said system data comprises characteristic data (information about backbone access network) for a device (gateway),

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e.g. {a serial number, the manufacturer's mark, the device class,} output and/or input characteristics (in the present case: backbone access network information),  
{the software version and/or any error data,} and passes this system data to an output unit (PC display, disc storage or printer in format of an icon) of this one device (PC), characterised in that, the output unit (disc storage) is {either} a device (disc storage) for writing to a mobile, digital data medium (disc) which can store the system data {or that the output unit (in the PC) is a modem or another telecommunication connection (connection with the residential network) which, when operated appropriately by a user, can send the system data to a desired address (in the network).}

The subject-matter of independent claim 1 can thus be entirely read onto D1. For this reason, the subject-matter of claim 1 lacks novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).

It is to be noted that the features placed between {} are alternative features in claim 1, and do therefore not add anything new to the subject-matter of this claim. However, it is further to be noted that, although they are not all explicitly described in D1, they can all be considered as implicit or at least suggested in this document.

- 3). The additional features of dependent apparatus claims 4 (minicomputer with a floppy disc: PC in D1), 5 (device in the system comprising a writing device storing the system data on a mobile digital data medium: disc storage of the PC in D1), 6 (device in the system comprising a telecommunication connection which can send polled data to an address: connection with the residential network in D1) and 7 (remote polling code transmitted via telecommunication line: connection line of the residential network in D1) are also known from D1.

The subject-matter of dependent claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 taken in combination with claim 1 can thus be entirely read onto D1.

For these reasons, the subject-matter of said dependent claims also lacks novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).

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- 4). The additional features of dependent apparatus claims 2 (smart/chip card as data medium) and 3 (set/top box or sat receiver with chip/smart card read/write device) are generally known in the field of home networks, in particular from D1 (see figure 5: set top box) and D2 (use of chip cards). A skilled person would automatically use such features whenever necessary and therefore these features can not be considered as involving an inventive step.

For this reason, the subject-matter of dependent claims 2 and 3 does not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) .

VI). A certain document cited:

The document EP - A - 0 932 275 cited in the international search report was published on 28.07.1999, after the priority date of the present demand, namely 2.11.1998, the priority of which is valid. This document can not be taken into consideration for establishing an international preliminary report.

This document would however be particularly relevant when entering a regional phase.

VII). A certain defect:

In order to meet the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the documents D1 & D2 should be identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly discussed.

**Patent claims**

1. System having a plurality of devices connected to one another via a bus interface, in particular an IEEE 1394 bus interface, characterized in that one of the devices (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for devices (2,4-7) in this system via the interface (1) and passes this system data to an output unit (9, 13, 14) of this device (3).  
5
2. System according to Claim 1, characterized in that the system data for a device (2-7) contains the input and output characteristics of the latter.  
15
3. System according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the output unit (9, 13, 14) is a device (9) for writing to a mobile, digital data medium (10) which can store the system data.  
20
4. System according to Claim 3, characterized in that the mobile data medium (10) is a smart card or a chip card having a memory, and in that, when operated appropriately by a user, the control unit (11) in the device (3) stores system data for connected devices (2,4-7) on the smart card or the chip card (10) using the device (9).  
25
5. System according to Claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the device (3) having the device (9) for writing to the data medium (10) is a set-top box or a digital satellite receiver having a write/read device for a chip card or a smart card.  
30
- 35 6. System according to Claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the device (3) having the device (9) for writing to the data medium (10) is a minicomputer

having a drive for a floppy disk or another data medium having a magnetic or optical storage medium.

7. System according to one of Claims 3 - 6,  
5 characterized in that the stored system data comprises characteristic data for this device (2, 4-7), e.g. a serial number, the manufacturer's mark, the device class, output and/or input characteristics, the software version and/or any  
10 error data.
8. Device having a device for writing to a mobile, digital data medium for a system according to one of Claims 3 - 5, characterized in that the device (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for connected devices (2, 4-7) via the interface (1) and stores this system data on the data medium (10) using the device (9).  
20
9. Mobile data medium, characterized in that it (10) is used for storing digital system data for a system according to one of the preceding Claims 3 - 7.  
25
10. Data medium according to Claim 8, characterized in that it (10) comprises a writable semiconductor memory or a magnetic or an optical storage medium.  
30
11. System according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the output unit (9, 13, 14) is a display (13) which, when operated appropriately by a user, shows the system data; or a modem or another telecommunication connection (14) which, when operated appropriately by a user, can send the  
35 system data to a desired address.
12. Device for a system according to Claim 11, characterized in that it (3) contains a control unit

(11) which, when operated appropriately by a user, polls system data for connected devices (2,4-7), which contains input and output characteristics for these devices, via the interface (1) and shows this system data on a display (13).

- 5
13. Device for a system according to Claim 11, characterized in that it (3) contains a control unit (11) which, when operated appropriately by a user or  
10 when an appropriate remote polling code is received, polls system data for connected devices (2,4-7), which contains input and output characteristics for these devices, via the interface (1), and in that the output unit (9, 13, 14) is a modem or another  
15 telecommunication connection (14) which can send the system data to a desired address.
14. Device for a system according to Claim 13, characterized in that user operation corresponds to remote control in the context of a remote polling code transmitted via communication line or by radio.
- 20
15. Device for a system according to one of Claims 1 - 7 or 11, characterized in that the device (2,4-7) outputs its system data via the interface when an appropriate command is transmitted via the interface.  
25